

Truckers Convoy and Protective Services

Key Messages – February 11, 2022 1:30 PM

- Good afternoon.
- It has been a busy day and situations are evolving hour over hour. And twitter and media in general are covering events faster than I or policing partners can process for briefing purposes and provide before it hits the media.
- Before I get into the details, I'll flag that we have taken steps internally to bolster our processes and ensure we are aligned across divisions with a focus on preventing/detering any new events and that information continues to flow up to Ministers.
- I'll start in Ontario and then move onto Alberta and then Manitoba.
- First, I would start by noting that the OPP is tracking protests in Thunder Bay, Greater Toronto Area, Toronto, Gananoque, and Niagara to name a few locations.

Windsor

- In terms of Windsor, following yesterday's Ontario Superior Court to remove protesters blocking traffic to the Ambassador Bridge, Windsor police provided notice to demonstrators.
- Protestors were advised that anyone involved in blocking streets must immediately cease unlawful activity or face charges, and that vehicles or other property related to the offence may be seized.
- Police operations began earlier this morning to secure the Ambassador Bridge and by 9 AM some vehicles were starting to leave voluntarily. Progress is being made in clearing protestors out and securing the area.

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- The latest update I have is that protestors have been pushed approximately 7 blocks from the bridge. Operation is still ongoing.
- As a result of the ongoing situation, the Essex Terminal Railway has made the decision to move staff and railway equipment away from the area around the protest at this time. There will be no train movements through the rail crossing in front of the Ambassador Bridge today.
- There are currently 500 protestors with the line being maintained by the Public Order Unit. No injuries or arrests.
- Windsor police is being supported by RCMP Public Order Units (66 members), London Police Services and the OPP (120 members).
- I'll flag that the OPP Commissioner received a request from the Ontario government for a meeting to take place with the protest leadership and provincial representatives for a constructive dialogue, contingent on protest activity ending in the interim.

Cornwall

- Briefly on Cornwall:
- About 70 to 75 demonstrators are on site, and 20 to 25 vehicles – tractors, large farm equipment and pick ups. They are not on the bridge, and Cornwall Police are on site securing the bridge.
- Akwesasne Mohawk Police and the OPP are also present. No request has been made to the RCMP at this time.

Ottawa

- I just spoke with the Ottawa Chief and OPP Commissioner prior to this call.
- Couple of things to note:

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- The mood on the ground has changed – we are noting more hostility and defiance, specifically toward police.
 - There are about 350 protestors on the Hill and 400 on Wellington Street in the downtown core.
 - The barricades at the War Memorial have been removed by protestors and we are now seeking an increase in protest activity at the site – approximately 200 have congregated.
 - Indications that a number of convoys are travelling to Ottawa today, including 11 from Quebec.
 - SQ is monitoring about 250 vehicles from different parts of Quebec making their way to the Gatineau side. We also understand there are about 250 vehicles that have left the Montreal protest making their way to Ottawa.
- I know everyone wants to hear that the OPS has a plan and are going to take action.
 - Concerted work is underway with all partners to finalize that plan. My team and I are working closely with OPP and OPS and I hope to be in a position to provide more details as early as tomorrow.
 - While Ottawa Police continues to receive support from the OPP and other municipal police services, I do not have the details on the number of people that they have deployed.
 - What I can say is that the RCMP continues to have approximately 345 members supporting our protective mandate and deployable.
 - In addition, today we have deployed 210 uniform members in support of the Ottawa Police Service – 3 shifts of 70 members each. In fact, we have 78 on the ground right now. Our members are deployed to static posts/traffic duties, and are on standby if needed for Quick Response Teams.

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- This is complemented by the Command structure, logistics, Comms, and admin support (included in the MOU), which exceed the 250 agreement.
- I want to reiterate that every ask that has been made to us by the OPS has been fulfilled. In fact, our numbers are higher than what we originally committed.
- Our numbers will evolve and the RCMP will support the OPS and OPP as the plan is finalized.
- For right now, between the resources provided by the RCMP and the OPP, we have met – and actually exceeded – the commitment made to the Ottawa Police Service’s “Maintenance” posture.

Moving from Ontario.

- I can tell you that gradual progress is being made in Coutts. We have gone from a high of approximately 250 trucks to about 40 at present.
- The situation continues to evolve, but my team on the ground has tactical and operational plans in place. Focus is on assessing risks and opportunities from the perspective of public and officer safety.
- The Commanding Officer continues to engage with the Premier and other Government officials.
- The RCMP has requested that the CBSA temporarily suspend border clearance services at the Coutts POE to control vehicle access to the protest site and to ensure public and officer safety.
- This temporary measure will remain in effect until public and commercial traffic is allowed to flow through the POE.
- This measure went into effect today at 1:00 PM MT.

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- Premier Kenney has indicated he will be reaching into Federal Ministers today. A request for CAPs.s.38 [REDACTED] is likely pending.

In terms of Emerson

- As of this morning, the POE at Emerson remains blocked. A few of the vehicles and campers were removed last night during a storm.
- Approximately 35 vehicles and 20 individuals remain on site, with people coming and going.
- The focus of efforts today is having the group open up at least one lane of traffic for cross border travel.
- Approximately 16 members are dedicated to this event at this time, with more available if needed.
- All other Ports of Entry in Manitoba remain open and there is no protest activity or disruption.
- There have been no requests from the Province of Manitoba, nor any indication that they will be seeking to invoke Article 9.

Other POEs

- In addition to these areas, there are reports of protestors near the Marine Atlantic facility in North Sydney, Nova Scotia. There are a couple of pickup trucks and approximately 12 vehicles blocking regular access to ticket booths. There are no impacts on operations at this time; however, there could be impacts on traffic trying to reach the site later in the day.

Emergency Management Act

- We are actively engaged in the discussion on the implications of the Emergency Management Act and we are exploring what measures may be available from an operational perspective.

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Engagement Proposal

- I have been working with DM Stewart and policing partners on the engagement proposal and we are supportive.

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